

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ADP-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07

OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-10 SS-15

STR-08 CEA-02 IGA-02 L-03 H-02 DODE-00 PA-03 USIA-12

PRS-01 RSR-01 /187 W

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R 201818 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2052

INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 07166

DEPT PASS TREASURY

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, EFIN, PFOR, IBRD, GH

SUBJECT: UK VIEWS ON GHANA DEBT MEETING

REF: STATE 116948 AND 119269

SUMMARY: UK IS RELUCTANT TO MEET IN ACCRA, PREFERS
PARIS OR LONDON. END SUMMARY

1. WE HAVE DISCUSSED PROPOSED ACCRA MEETING OF GHANA
CREDITORS IN SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS WITH BOTH TREASURY
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AND FCO. TREASURY SOURCE REPORTED THAT FRENCH ARE ADAMANTLY OPPOSED TO HAVING MEETING IN ACCRA, FRENCH SAYING THAT THEY WILL REFUSE TO PARTICIPATE IF ACCRA IS CHOSEN AS THE SITE. FCO SOURCE TAKES FRENCH THREAT LESS SERIOUSLY, NOTING THAT FRENCH MADE SIMILAR THREAT PRIOR TO LAST MEETING IN LONDON AND OPINING THAT THEY WOULD HAVE SOME REPRESENTATION EVEN IF IT WERE A LOWER LEVEL EMBASSY OFFICIAL.

2. BOTH HMTREASURY AND FCO SHARE RELUCTANCE ABOUT HAVING MEETING IN ACCRA FOR TWO REASONS: FIRST IS MATTER OF GENERAL PRINCIPLE. UK RESEARCH INDICATES THAT DURING PAST 20 YEARS, THERE IS NO PRECEDENT FOR CREDITORS GOING TO A DEBTOR CAPITAL FOR THIS TYPE OF NEGOTIATION. CREDITORS GOING TO ACCRA COULD SET DANGEROUS PRECEDENT AND CREATE PRESSURES IN THE FUTURE FOR MEETINGS IN OTHER DEBTOR CAPITALS. NEVERTHELESS, UK IS WILLING TO GO TO ACCRA IF THAT IS WHAT IS NEEDED TO GET AN AGREEMENT, PROVIDED GHANAIS ARE SERIOUS ABOUT NEGOTIATIONS.

3. SECOND POINT OF CONCERN WITH HMG IS THAT THERE IS SOME UNCERTAINTY OVER QUESTION OF WHETHER GHANAIS GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO PURSUE SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS. UK FEARS IT MAY BE STRUNG ALONG IN ACCRA FOR LENGTHY PERIOD WITH NO RESULTS FORTHCOMING, AND THEY CONSIDER THAT DELEGATIONS CAN BE PLACED UNDER MORE PRESSURES WHEN NEGOTIATING IN A DEBTOR CAPITAL. FCO IS TAKING THE RELATIVELY OPTIMISTIC VIEW THAT THERE IS 50 PERCENT CHANCE THAT GHANAIS ARE INTERESTED IN SOME SORT OF ACCOMMODATION.

4. IN ANY EVENT, QUESTION SHOULD BE CLARIFIED SOON. FCO REPORTS BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER IN ACCRA IS TO SEE ACHEOMPONG TODAY (JUNE 20) AND HE IS EXPECTED TO LEARN PRECISELY WHAT IS GHANAIS POSITION ON QUESTION OF MEETING IN ACCRA AS WELL AS GET A BETTER IDEA OF GHANAIS INTENTIONS GENERALLY. AS FC SEE MATTER, THERE ARE TWO POSSIBILITIES WHICH ARE MOST LIKELY TO

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R 201818 Z JUN 73
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2053
INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA
AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
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AMEMBASSY PARIS
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 07166

OCCUR: (A) A MEETING OF CREDITORS' AMBASSADORS IN
ACCRA FOLLOWED BY MEETING WITH GHANAIS IN EUROPE OR
(B) A CREDITORS MEETING IN LONDON FOLLOWED BY MEETING
WITH GHANAIS IN ACCRA.

5. IN MEANTIME, FCO WEST AFRICA DEPARTMENT HAS, AS
CONTINGENCY, RESERVED CONFERENCE ROOM IN FCO FOR JULY 11
AND 12. THIS FOLLOWED OUR REPRESENTATIONS PURSUANT TO
STATE 119269.

6. UK HAS INDICATIONS THAT NEITHER GERMANS NOR DUTCH
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WILL ATTEND LONDON MEETINGS DURING JULY 4-12 PERIOD.
FRENCH MAY DELIBERATELY REDUCE THE LEVEL OF THEIR

REPRESENTATION.

7. IN SUMMARY, HMG WOULD PREFER THAT MEETING WITH GHANAIS BE HELD IN PARIS OR LONDON. UK INSTRUCTIONS TO DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS IN CREDITOR COUNTRIES REPORTEDLY CONTAINED OFFER OF EITHER OXFORD OR CAMBRIDGE AS POSSIBLE SITES FOR DISCUSSIONS. IF IT IS REALLY NECESSARY THAT DISCUSSIONS BE HELD IN ACCRA, UK WOULD PREFER TO SEE SOME BETTER DEMONSTRATION THAN IT HAS SEEN THUS FAR THAT PROGRESS CAN BE MADE.

8. EMBASSY COMMENT: EMBASSY ACCRA OBVIOUSLY BETTER PLACED THAN WE ARE TO JUDGE SERIOUSNESS OF GHANAIS INTENTIONS. UK TREASURY OFFICIAL WHO PASSED ON THIS INFORMATION STRESSED THAT BOTH FCO AND TREASURY ARE EQUALLY CONCERNED, AND ASKED FOR SOME INDICATION OF HOW THE US MIGHT VIEW POSSIBLE PRECEDENT OF CREDITORS GOING TO THE DEBTOR CAPITAL IN TERMS OF FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES. PLEASE ADVISE.

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